

## ARIZONA HISTORICAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

### Application for Arizona Centennial 2012 Legacy Project Designation

**AHAC Mission:** Develop, encourage and coordinate a statewide plan for Arizona's centennial in 2012 including advising the legislature and state agencies on centennial history and heritage, arts and culture, assisting the governor's countdown to the centennial to support school children learning about Arizona's history and recommending activities and projects that will ensure lasting accomplishments to commemorate the centennial.

**Vision for Centennial Projects:** Commemorations that encourage all Arizonans to reflect on our unique and authentic history, to experience the rich and diverse tapestry of our heritage, and to explore our promising futures, thus ensuring a lasting legacy.

**Legacy Project Criteria:** This is a request for official designation as an Arizona Centennial Legacy Project. To be considered, the project must 1) accurately portray a significant aspect of Arizona history; 2) be accessible to large number of visitors/users; 3) demonstrate collaboration in the planning; 4) produce an enduring product that will live on after 2012; 5) include an educational component; 6) include a plan for implementation.

Attach a maximum of three pages that address the following areas, in the order listed:

1. General description of the project.
2. Describe how this project meets the Legacy Project criteria.
3. Project timeline. Give details regarding planning and implementation.
4. Describe the project location.
5. List project partners, if applicable.
6. Attach a proposed budget, showing total project cost and funding sources.


Name of project: New Chandler Museum

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Signature (authorizing official or project director)

07/06/07

Date

The Arizona Historical Advisory Commission will review the Committee's recommendations and make final decisions regarding Legacy Project designations. Submit application to:

Arizona Historical Advisory Committee  
1700 W Washington, Suite 200  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

## **Arizona Centennial 2012 Legacy Project Designation Project Description**

### **Project Description**

In order to better preserve its history and showcase its culture, the City of Chandler will be constructing a new Chandler Museum in the downtown area. The new 25,000 square foot museum will replace a smaller facility. The Chandler Historical Society has operated the museum since 1986, and the museum has been the sole institution that interprets and celebrates the city's past. Along with the new facility, the City of Chandler has committed to operating the new museum and providing for its annual budget. Creation of a new Chandler Museum will include a new vision and mission statement, expanded interpretation opportunities, and more community-based programming.

Major goals for the new museum include (1) to highlight Chandler's unique identity by engaging visitors in stories of the city's past and through other innovative and diverse exhibits; (2) to become an integral part of downtown retail and cultural development; and (3) to bring in new audiences with extended hours of operation and new programming. The new museum will work with the community to broaden its collections, increase its educational programs, and become an important social center in Chandler.

### **Legacy Project Criteria**

The creation of the new Chandler Museum should be designated as a 2012 Legacy Project. The museum's permanent exhibit and the bulk of its collections will focus on Chandler history, which is an important component of the story of the state. It is particularly fitting that Chandler and Arizona share the same birth year and will be celebrating their centennial at the same time. A new museum with new exhibits dedicated to local and state history will be an excellent way in 2012 to educate the public about our shared past.

The museum plans to target a wide range of ages in its efforts to bring in visitors and residents to experience exhibits and programming. Through evening and weekend hours of operation, the new museum will be accessible to different groups of people throughout the week. For example, school children may come through the exhibits during the day, while evening hours or programs may bring in adults who are attending downtown events, or patronizing downtown businesses and restaurants. Weekend events can also bring in new audiences. A key to accessibility is the plan to locate the museum in a mixed-use development that includes nearby parking for cars and school buses.

The museum project is fundamentally collaborative. The City and the Historical Society have been working together in creating the new museum, and will continue to work in partnership upon its opening. Planning phases from 2004-2007 have included community input; this will continue to be important as content, exhibit, collections, and programming planning begins this year. The result of this collaborative process will be a permanent museum located in downtown Chandler for residents and visitors to enjoy for many

years. It will also be a permanent legacy and a point of pride for the City. Planning for the new museum also includes looking ahead to possible expansion needs and museum growth.

The new museum is educational in nature. It will offer exhibits and programs that are modern and entertaining, while intellectual and interpretively sound. Through use of a variety of media, the museum will create an engaging, interactive and enjoyable experience for visitors of all ages. The museum will also respond to the needs of the community in terms of both educational and leisure needs.

### **Project Timeline**

1999	City of Chandler incorporates a Public History Master Plan that advocates the importance of its history and to share that story with the public, and also identifies the need to build a new museum.
2000	Chandler voters approve an \$8.5 million bond to build a new museum
2003	City hires Public History Coordinator to begin programs crating awareness about Chandler's history and to preserve that history.
2004-2005	Phase 1 planning to establish new museum's vision, mission statement, and goals.
2006-2007	Phase 2 planning creates a comprehensive business plan for the new museum.
May 2007	Chandler residents to vote on 2 <sup>nd</sup> bond issue to add \$4.5 million for new museum construction, as costs have increased
Fall 2007	Design process on new museum to begin under new Museum Administrator, including content planning
2009-2010	Completion and opening of new 25,000 square foot Chandler Museum in downtown Chandler.
2012	Celebrate Chandler and Arizona's Centennial with special exhibits and programs at the new museum.

### **Project Location**

The new museum will be located in downtown Chandler, on what is called "site 6," a development area on south Arizona Avenue, directly south of the original town square. It will be located in close proximity to a mixed-use development, and will be connected by pathways to the heart of Chandler, the historic downtown area.

### **Project Partners**

The major project partners are the City of Chandler and the Chandler Historical Society, including its staff, membership, and board of directors. Other project partners, or stakeholders, will come from the community as the planning process continues. These include the Museum Advisory Board, Chandler Unified School District, Chandler Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Chandler Community Partnership, East Valley museums, the historic San Marcos Hotel, the Chandler Cultural Foundation, Chandler Arts Commission, and members of the general public who want to provide input into the process.

### **Proposed Budget.**

The City of Chandler has successfully passed two bond issues to fund the museum construction, for a total of \$13 million.

The City of Chandler will provide \$809,151 as the annual operations budget for the new museum.

The Chandler Historical Society will continue to provide program funding through fundraisers and gift shop revenues.

Additional budget items will be determined in relation to the planning process for the new facility, including new exhibit design and fabrication costs, collections needs, education programs, and other elements for the new museum.

Thank you for your consideration of our application to become an Arizona Centennial 2012 Legacy project. We feel this new museum will be an excellent venue to present local and state history to the public. It will also serve as a model for a successful partnership between the government and the public in creating and supporting a cultural entity that shares the stories of our past with generations to come.